

## NOTICE OF INTENT TO AWARD

This Funding Announcement is not a request for applications. This announcement is to provide public notice of Reclamation's intention to fund the following project activities without full and open competition.

ABSTRACT	
<b>Funding Announcement</b>	R12AS20007 <i>CESU # R11AC10001</i>
<b>Project Title</b>	Statistical Support for Fish Investigations in the Klamath Basin of Oregon and California
<b>Recipient</b>	University of Washington
<b>Principle Investigator</b>	Dr. John Skalski
<b>Anticipated Federal Amount</b>	Estimated amount of the Agreement: \$461,135.19
<b>Cost Share</b>	None
<b>Total Anticipated Award Amount</b>	FY12 \$156,724.57
<b>New Award or Continuation?</b>	New Award
<b>Anticipated Length of Agreement</b>	4 years and 6 months
<b>Anticipated Period of Performance</b>	Date of execution through December 31, 2016
<b>Award Instrument</b>	Cooperative Agreement
<b>Statutory Authority</b>	Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, Public Law 85-624, 16 U.S. C. 661et seq., as amended.
<b>CFDA Number</b>	15.517
<b>Single Source Justification Criteria Cited</b>	Justification Criterion: (4) (Unique Qualifications), of the Department of Interior Single Source Policy Requirements
<b>Reclamation Point of Contact</b>	Judy A. Hudson, <a href="mailto:jhudson@usbr.gov">jhudson@usbr.gov</a>

## OVERVIEW

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) oversees water resource management, specifically as it applies to the oversight and operation of numerous diversion, delivery and storage projects throughout the western United States for irrigation, water supply and attendant hydroelectric power generation. As a federal agency within the Department of Interior, Reclamation has wide-ranging environmental study and regulatory compliance needs particularly in operation of water projects.

Reclamation's Klamath Irrigation Project (Project) is located in south-central Oregon and northern California. It covers lands in Klamath County, Oregon, and Siskiyou and Modoc Counties in northern California. The Project was authorized to: 1. drain and reclaim lake lands, 2. store, divert and deliver water supplies for Project purposes, and 3. control flooding of the reclaimed lands. These authorized actions may impact native fishes in the Klamath Basin. As a result, Reclamation's Klamath Basin Area Office (KBAO) conducts or funds studies to measure possible impacts to the native fish, particularly fish species that have been listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Four ESA-listed fish species are present in the Klamath Basin: bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*), coho salmon

(*Oncorhynchus kisutch*), Lost River sucker (*Deltistes luxatus*) and shortnose sucker (*Chasmistes brevirostris*).

KBAO staff frequently design or review investigations implemented to gather additional information of the Project's possible impacts on ESA-listed fish species. These studies often involve complicated data collection or analysis methods. KBAO has recently identified a need for additional assistance to review and design fish investigations in order to utilize sound scientific or statistical approaches to evaluate potential Project impacts on native fishes in the Klamath Basin. Assistance has been particularly identified to cooperate on the review of fish investigation studies and reports that utilize modern data collection methods and statistical analyses involving fish population dynamics on ESA-listed species in the Klamath Basin.

This cooperative effort between Reclamation and the University of Washington will be conducted under Pacific Northwest Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (CESU) program Agreement No. R11AC10001.

### **RECIPIENT INVOLVEMENT**

There are two objectives identified under this cooperative agreement:

1. Collaborate on peer review of prepared fish investigation proposals and reports. Reclamation staff will conduct a review of these documents. Reclamation staff will request assistance in the review of these documents by study cooperators at University of Washington when Reclamation staff determines that additional review is warranted.
2. Collaborate on study designs for fish investigations which may include analysis of existing data to improve current and future fish studies. Reclamation staff will coordinate with cooperators at University of Washington to develop tasks and timelines to jointly review and analyze fish study designs.

### **RECLAMATION INVOLVEMENT**

Reclamation anticipates significant involvement for the successful completion of the objectives to be funded by this agreement. In particular, Reclamation will be responsible for or have significant participation in the following:

- Coordinated peer-review of proposals/reports.
- Review of project/program study design review.
- Identification of proposals/reports/projects/programs needing coordinated review.
- Determination/identification of timelines, sections to be reviewed, detail of reviews, effort/budget required to complete review, and correspondence level needed to complete a coordinated review.

### **SINGLE-SOURCE JUSTIFICATION**

#### **DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR SINGLE SOURCE POLICY REQUIREMENTS**

Department of the Interior Policy (505 DM 2) requires a written justification which explains why competition is not practicable for each single-source award. The justification must address one or more of the following criteria as well as discussion of the program legislative history, unique

capabilities of the proposed recipient, and cost-sharing contribution offered by the proposed recipient, as applicable.

In order for an assistance award to be made without competition, the award must satisfy one or more of the following criteria:

- (1) Unsolicited Proposal – The proposed award is the result of an unsolicited assistance application which represents a unique or innovative idea, method, or approach which is not the subject of a current or planned contract or assistance award, but which is deemed advantageous to the program objectives;
- (2) Continuation – The activity to be funded is necessary to the satisfactory completion of, or is a continuation of an activity presently being funded, and for which competition would have a significant adverse effect on the continuity or completion of the activity;
- (3) Legislative intent – The language in the applicable authorizing legislation or legislative history clearly indicates Congress' intent to restrict the award to a particular recipient of purpose;
- (4) **Unique Qualifications** – The applicant is uniquely qualified to perform the activity based upon a variety of demonstrable factors such as location, property ownership, voluntary support capacity, cost-sharing ability if applicable, technical expertise, or other such unique qualifications;
- (5) Emergencies – Program/award where there is insufficient time available (due to a compelling and unusual urgency, or substantial danger to health or safety) for adequate competitive procedures to be followed.

**Reclamation did not solicit full and open competition for this award based on the following criteria:**

#### **(4) UNIQUE QUALIFICATIONS**

##### **Single Source Justification Description:**

Dr. John Skalski, the study Principal Investigator from University of Washington, has nearly 30 years of experience as a fish and wildlife statistician working with aquatic species, including those listed as threatened and endangered under the Endangered Species Act, in the Pacific Northwest. Dr. Skalski's research has focused on the development of sampling methodology, field designs and statistical tests for assessing human induced and natural effects on organismic and ecological systems. Dr. Skalski's empirical studies have investigated approaches for the analysis of catch-per-unit effort (CPUE) data in impact assessment, long-term effects of energy production on salmonid populations, and the statistical analysis of coded-wire-tag, Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT)-tag, radio-tag, and balloon-tag data in fisheries. Dr. Skalski's special investigations have considered study designs confronted with restrictions on randomization and replication. The areas of applied statistical research include estimation of population abundance and survival and migration rates of fish stocks.

Dr. John Skalski has developed unique qualifications working with water management agencies, principally Army Corps of Engineers and Reclamation, in the Pacific Northwest on fish investigations including capture-recapture data analysis and population modeling of uncommon, rare, threatened or endangered species.

### **STATUTORY AUTHORITY**

The authority for this agreement is set forth by the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (The Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.), as amended and delegated by the Department of the Interior Manual, 255 DM 14.

The Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, 16 U.S.C. § 661, states in part:

[T]o provide that wildlife conservation shall receive equal consideration and be coordinated with other features of water-resource development programs through the effectual and harmonious planning, development, maintenance, and coordination of wildlife conservation and rehabilitation ... the Secretary of the Interior is authorized (1) to provide assistance to, and cooperate with, Federal, State, and public or private agencies and organizations in the development, protection, rearing, and stocking of all species of wildlife, resources thereof, and their habitat, in controlling losses of the same from disease or other causes, ....

255 DM 14, paragraph 1, states:

The Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation, is delegated so much of the authority of the Secretary under the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq., as is necessary to provide assistance, through grants or cooperative agreements, to public or private organizations for the improvement of fish and wildlife habitat associated with water systems or water supplies affected by Reclamation projects.